

Remarks/Arguments

Claims 1-2, and 4-7 are pending in the application. A part of the specification has been amended herein. Claims 1 and 2 have been amended herein. Applicant believes that all formal matters raised by the Examiner have been addressed. As such, the application is believed to be in condition for allowance.

I. ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the indicated allowability of claims 1, 2 and 4-7. It is respectfully submitted that the formal matters pointed out by the Examiner have been addressed by the amendments to the specification and the claims. Thus, the application is believed to be in condition for allowance.

II. OBJECTIONS TO THE SPECIFICATION

The specification stands objected to because of informalities. The related portions of the specification have been amended to improve their readability. Regarding the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 2, the amended portion of the specification now describes the shape of the coupling grooves (e.g., 3b) in a more specific manner. However, it is noted the shape of the coupling grooves is fully described in the original specification and the drawings. No new matter has been introduced by the amendments to the specification.

According to a specific exemplary embodiment of the invention, the peel sheet 1 is peeled off from a downstream end (i.e., an end which is opposite to the rotation reel 2 in Fig. 1) toward an upstream end (i.e., an end which is closer to the rotation reel 2) of the peel sheet 1. Each of the coupling grooves 3b has an upstream edge and a downstream edge. The upstream edge is positioned upstream with respect to the downstream edge in Figs. 1 and 2. Thus, the arrow X in Fig. 1 and 2 shows a direction from the upstream end to the downstream end of the peel sheet 1.

For example, in Fig. 2, the coupling grooves are represented by two parallel lines (straight or curved). A left-hand line of the coupling grooves represents the upstream edge, and a right-hand line of the coupling grooves represents the downstream edge. Thus, the upstream edge is positioned upstream with respect to the downstream edge in Figs. 1 and 2.

The coupling grooves are displaced toward the upstream end, i.e., toward the reel 2, in the feed direction with respect to a center of each of the adjacent penetration holes. As a result, there are no upstream edge (e.g., a left-hand edge in Fig. 2) within a plane of the spacer sheet, which protrudes toward the downstream end (i.e., toward the direction opposite to the reel 2) in the feed direction.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant believes that the specification is correct and clear. Withdrawal of the objections is respectfully requested.

III. OBJECTIONS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1 and 2 stand objected to because of informalities. Claims 1 and 2 have been amended herein to address the Examiner's concerns.

Specifically, claim 1 has been amended to address the antecedent basis issues in claims 1 and 2, and to further clarify the last section of claim 1, and claim 2. In view of the amended language in claims 1 and 2, Applicant believes that these claims are clear now. Withdrawal of the objections is respectfully requested.

IV. CONCLUSION

Applicant believes that all pending claims are in condition for allowance, and respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance at an early date. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 510-843-6200, ext. 245.

Respectfully submitted,
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Limited Recognition under 37 CFR § 10.9(b)

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